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Design Arts: National Academy of Design (1994): Correspondence 16

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AMERICAN • COUNCIL • FOR • THE • ARTS

July 22, 1994

Honorable Senator
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Council for the Arts, a national organization which promotes public policies that advance the contributions of the arts, I urge you to support Senator James Jeffords' Amendment to restore the five percent reduction in the NEA funding and to vote against expected weakening amendments to the NEA appropriations in the FY95 Interior Appropriations Bill.

The NEA's budget has been stagnant for over ten years and, in fact, the agency has lost 46 percent in purchasing power in current dollars since FY91 alone. The five percent cut would jeopardize the capacity of the NEA to carry out its overall mission.

In addition, at least three weakening amendments are also expected to be introduced: content restrictions; further cuts or changes in the distribution formula of NEA funds to the states; and procedural changes concerning the grantmaking process. We strongly feel that these issues should be addressed during the Reauthorization of the Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act which is expected to take place in the near future.

We encourage you to actively support Senator Jeffords in his attempt to restore the damaging cuts to the NEA and oppose the weakening amendments on the floor.

Sincerely,

Luis R. Cancel
President & CEO
American Council for the Arts